

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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13-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

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R 280325Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5996

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0217

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJECT: CORRECTION TO REPORT ON RETURN OF "SEMINARIST"  
FROM VIENG SAY

REF: VIENTIANE 0192 (DTG 230730Z JAN 76)

1. AFTER FURTHER CHECKING, WE MUST RETRACT REFTTEL REPORT THAT HOUMPHENG PATHOUMVAN, FORMER DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN PGNU MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, IS FIRST OFFICIAL TO RETURN FROM SEMINAR AT VIENG SAY. SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF WHO SAW HIM IN EARLY JANUARY, NOW AGREE THAT HOUMPHENG ATTENDED SEMINAR AT DONG DOK FROM APPROXIMATELY JUNE THROUGH AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER AND THEN EITHER WENT ON TO ANOTHER SEMINAR OUT ONCTOWN (PERHAPS IN VANG VIENG, BUT NOT VIENG SAY) OR SIMPLY STAYED IN VIENTIANE BUT OUT OF CIRCULATION. AFTER RECHECKING, AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF IS NOW CERTAIN THAT HOUMPHENG ACCOMPANIED SEVERAL VIENTIANE-SIDE CABINET MEMBERS TO VIENG SAY ON NOVEMBER 24 FOR COMBINED MEETING OF PGNU AND JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL THERE (75 VIENTIANE 6344) BUT RETURNED SOON AFTERWARDS AND WAS NEVER A FULL-FLEDGED VIENG SAY "SEMINARIST."

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2. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE FOUND NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION THAT "TWO COLONELS" (REFTEL), OR OTHER PERSONS RUMORED TO HAVE RETURNED FROM THE PROTRACTED SEMINARS AT VIENG SAY, HAVE ACTUALLY DONE SO. THEREFORE WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT TRIP TO VIENG SAY HAS SO FAR BEEN ONE-WAY-ONLY FOR THE MANY FAR OFFICERS AND PGNU OFFICIALS WHO WENT OFF FOR SEMINARS AT VARIOUS TIMES FROM JUNE THROUGH NOVEMBER.

3. FURTHER INFORMATION ON "THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR" INDICATE THAT MOST OR ALL OF ITS MEMBERS ARE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR EMPLOYEES AND THAT IT MAY TURN OUT TO BE INTRA-MINISTERIAL OR AT MOST INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING BODY.

4. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO REPRESENTATIVES OF EMBASSIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN THE ASSISTANCE FIELD HOW THE NEW COMMISSION WILL INTERACT WITH THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE FOR THE RECEPTION OF FOREIGN AID OR WITH THE NEW, CABINET-LEVEL NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, UN AND THIRD-COUNTRY OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE LAST-MENTIONED BODY IS TAKING BACK SOME OF THE ASSISTANCE-COORDINATING FUNCTIONS THAT FORMERLY RESTED WITH THE COMMISSARIAT GENERAL (EARLIER MINISTRY) DU PLAN BUT IN LATE 1974 AND EARLY 1975 WERE SHIFTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S "DIRECTION DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET DE LA COOPERATION." TEARE

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